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Message Text

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50
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 OPR-02 /099 W
---------- 046001
O R 091519Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5142
INFO DOD/DIA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3534

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PINT, MILI
SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES IMMINENT

REF: SANTIAGO 3533

1. AFTER CABINET MEETING EVEING AUG 8 AT WHICH MINISTERS RESIGNED, PRESIDENTIAL INFORMATION OFFICE (OIR) ISSUED OFFICIAL BULLETIN ANNOUNCING PRESIDENT ALLENDE WILL REORGANIZE CABINET TODAY TO INCLUDE CINCS OF ALL THREE ARMED SERVICES.

2. CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AND CONFUSION PREVAILS ABOUT WHETHER NEW CABINET WILL INCLUDE ADDITIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL AND/OR CARABINERO OFFICERS, WHETHER MILITARY WILL ALSO TAKE SOME KEY SECOND-LEVEL POSTS, AND WHICH PORTFOLIOS MILITARY MINISTERS WILL ASSUME.

3. PDC PRESIDENT SENATOR PATRICIO AYLWIN COMMENTED THAT, BASED ON WHAT HE HAD HEARD SO FAR, NEW CABINET DID NOT RPT NOT MEET PDC DEMANDS FOR "REAL PARTICIPATION OF ARMED FORCES AT ALL LEVELS AND WITH SUFFICIENT POWER TO GUARANTEE REESTABLISHMENT OF ORDER, SECURITY AND INSTITUTIONAL
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NORMALITY."

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4. PN PRESIDENT SENATOR SERGIO JARPA STATED THAT, SINCE HE SAW NO INDICATION OF BASIC GOVT POLICY CHANGES NOR MILITARY CONTROL OF SECONDARY POSTS WHICH REALLY OPERATE GOVT MACHINERY, HE COULD NOT BELIEVE ARMED FORCES WOULD ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED AS A "MASQUERADE" TO SUPPORT A MINORITY, ILLEGAL AND UNPOPULAR MARXIST GOVT.

5. NO STATEMENTS FROM COMMUNISTS OR SOCIALISTS. OPPOSITION PRESS FULL OF SPECULATION THAT ENTRANCE OF MILITARY INTO CABINET MIGHT CAUSE SPLITS IN UP COALITION. SOME RUMORS HAVE IT THAT SOCIALISTS WILLING ACCEPT NO MORE THAN THREE PORTFOLIOS FOR MILITARY.

6. COMMENT: CABINET ANNOUNCEMENT COMES IN CONTEXT OF CUT RALLY THIS AFTERNOON AND COUNTER-SHUT DOWN BY OPPOSITION (REFTEL). AT RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT (WE WERE GIVING EX-CHILEAN AIR ATTACHE LEGION OF MERIT), BGEN OSVALDO LATORRE AND OTHER AIR FORCE OFFICERS SAID IDEA WAS TO HAVE GENERAL PRATS TAKE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, ADMIRAL MONTERO TAKE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GENERAL RUIZ TAKE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT AND CARABINEROS GENERAL SEPULVEDA TAKE MINISTRY OF MINES. IT WAS ENVISAGED, THEY SAID, THAT THESE OFFICERS WOULD HAVE FREEDOM TO NAME SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS FROM ARMED SERVICES IN MINISTRIES THEY HEADED. AIR FORCE OFFICERS PRESENT INDICATED CONSIDERABLE UN-HAPPINESS WITH FORMULA WHICH APPEARED TO BE EVOLVING AND THOUGHT NAVY OFFICERS WOULD BE EVEN LESS SATISFIED. WE NOTE THAT EL MERCURIO OF THIS MORNING INDICATES "MANY DOUBTS" STILL EXIST IN ARMED FORCES ABOUT ACCEPTING CABINET POSTS AND THAT ONE SERVICE (WE ASSUME THE NAVY) IS STILL HOLDING INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS.
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Executive Order: GS DAVIS
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